

INSIDE THE WIRE

**1st Battalion
7th Marines**

NOVEMBER 2009

Volume 2, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Letter from the CO | 1 |
| Letter from the Sgt Major | 2 |
| Chaplains Corner | 2 |
| Letter from the FRO | 3 |
| Company Updates | 5 |
| Events | 13 |
| Resources | 14 |



Dear First Team Family

My family and I recently joined your battalion upon returning to the United States after three years overseas in Okinawa. It has been a thrill to return home and become a part of such a marvelous organization. We have been to Twentynine Palms many times, but this is our first time stationed here. We are learning the ropes of the local area. We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible and hearing your ideas on how we can best serve our Marines, sailors and families. We wish Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs. Fosdal the best of luck at their next assignment and thank them for their contributions to the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine's family.

I will routinely refer to the First Team or 1/7 "family" in these updates. Our unit is more than just our active Marines and sailors. For every Marine or sailor in the battalion there is a family member who follows our movements and schedule just as

closely as their son, husband, father, brother, or uncle. Those of you who wait at home are in my thoughts always. In addition to immediate family members, our larger family also includes former members of 1/7. Our brothers in arms who made the 1/7 legacy in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Shield/Desert Storm and remain active in the battalion are a vital piece of the support network behind the First Team. We consider you part of the family also.

As we prepare for our next deployment we will continue to have an inclusive, supportive family readiness program coordinated by our family readiness officer, Ruby Zunino. I encourage you to contact her with any concerns you may have. I ask you to remain active and involved in the life of the battalion. Forming strong bonds and sharing your strength with others is the surest way to handle the inevitable hardships of our military lifestyle.

Best Regards,

Lt Col Todd P. Simmons



LETTER FROM THE SERGEANT MAJOR

Hello - Marines, Sailors and Family members

As we are all back and settled from post deployment leave, and relocated back to our desert oasis I welcome all. It has been a much needed break from conducting our nation's business. As we begin the holiday season I want to wish each and every one of you a Happy Birthday (USMC 234 years old), Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. I'm sure we all have a lot to be thankful for.

Over the last and into the next several months we have and will lose several families to permanent change in station, end of active service or change of assignment. I want to thank all of those who supported the First Team and wish success in your future endeavors. It's been a pleasure serving side by side.

As the Battalion begins the next chapter in its history, I ask that our support network remain loyal and dedicated, and for those who I have not met yet, welcome to the First Team family.

I hope that you too will become part of our awesome family support network.



“Semper Fidelis”

Sergeant Major P. A. Lewis



CHAPLAINS CORNER



Currently, the Battalion is not assigned a Chaplain but receives support from several Chaplains currently stationed aboard 29 Palms. For routine questions during the work day please contact RP3 Carnes at (760) 830-5905. For after hour or emergency Chaplain support please contact the Duty Chaplain at (760) 830-7200.

Dear "First Team" families,

Our 1/7 family is an amazing extended family and it certainly shows by the caring and support that you have not only provided for your Marine or Sailor but for what you do for each other.

If you are a Marine or Sailor and your spouse or designated family member is not receiving information by email, please come into my office (bldg 1445) to update their information or email me. Along those lines, please take a moment to go on to MOL or visit IPAC to update any incorrect information. It is important that you regularly update all your records, especially if you have moved address, recently got married/divorced or had a new baby - to ensure family readiness.

If at any time you have a question or concern please feel free to contact me either by phone or email.

Yours
Ruby Zunino

Office 760 830 3768

Cell 760 219 9030 or 760 401 5644

Email Roberta.zunino.uk@usmc.mil or z29palms@yahoo.com



We are looking for Volunteer Family Readiness Assistants for all companies.

If you are interested in becoming involved within your Marine or Sailor's company and the battalion, why not become a Family Readiness Assistant.

The training is fun, all you need to do is attend a Family Readiness Volunteer training course and a L.I.N.K.S session to get started.

If you are a working spouse and would like to attend an evening or weekend meeting to get more information please contact me on 760 830 3768.

For information on the next volunteer training please [click here](#).

For information on the next L.I.N.K.S session please [click here](#).

BATTALION HOTLINE
1 800 759 7602 OPTION 1





Each quarter of the Fiscal Year, in this case, July- Sept 09 a Noncommissioned Officer and a Lance Corporal or below is nominated from each company to compete for the title of 1st Battalion, 7th Marines

Noncommissioned Officer and Marine of the Quarter. Today we present Cpl Stuart M. Vincent (Now Sgt Vincent) and LCpl Dustin L. Schaeffer (soon to be a Meritorious Corporal) from Weapons Company and Suicide Charley Company respectively. These Marines epitomize the fine traditions of our Corps and demonstrate outstanding leadership, discipline, and a commitment to excellence. For this they will wear this coveted title until January 2010 at which time two more warriors will be selected.

Meritorious Promotions this Quarter

Meritorious Sergeant (2 November 2009)

Stuart M. Vincent Weapons Company"

Meritorious Corporal (2 December 2009)

" Lance Corporals"

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Robert K. Tokerud | (Animal Company) |
| Kevin M. Wheeler | (Baker Company) |
| Benjamin P. Omev | (Charley Company) |
| Dustin L. Schaeffer | (Charley Company) |
| Brian R. Partridge | (Weapons Company) |

Honor Graduate

Sergeant Robert Sherwood
was awarded Honor Graduate from the Sergeants Residence Course.



Letters from the Companies

H&S COMPANY

Family and Friends,

Headquarters and Service Company is together once again after redeploying to Twentynine Palms in four separate waves from Iraq. The last waves of Marines arrived home on 14 September 2009. Your Marines and sailors did a noteworthy job during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM 09.1.

Headquarters and Service Company led the way during a complete turn in of the battalion gear set totaling over 22,000 items at over \$124 million, remilitarization of four combat outposts, and the professionalization of the Iraqi Security Forces.

I would like to thank each of you for your support during the battalions rigorous seven month deployment. The burden you bear of not having your sons, husbands, brothers, and fathers at home is something I appreciate beyond words. Your letters, prayers, and care packages while we were deployed were much appreciated. The amount of good these do to the spirit of our war fighters is immeasurable and was without a doubt a critical part of their ability to perform so well under austere conditions. I hope that you enjoyed spending time with your loved one during the battalion block leave period.



Congratulations

Congratulations to the following recently promoted Marines:

Corporal Scott Correll (October 1st)

Corporal Christopher Young (October 1st)

Corporal Wesley Myers (October 1st)

Corporal Adam Daniels (October 1st)

Corporal Mark Martinez (November 1st)

As time passes the company is forced to say goodbye to many of its warriors while they move on to new duty stations or end their active service. At the same time we are welcoming aboard Marines and Sailors transferring in from other units and entry level schools. As the new team forms all are working hard to ensure the battalion receives the support it needs during the dozens of training events taking place and to make certain it is fully prepared to accomplish any mission.

The next few months of training will be focused on annual training qualifications to include rifle and pistol ranges, swim qualifications, mask confidence training, Basic Skills exams, amongst other requirements.

Although the unit just returned from deployment your Marines and sailors will be extremely busy preparing for the upcoming work up cycle. The administration section will continue to provide first class services to the Marines and sailors of the battalion. The intelligence section will conduct in depth analysis on areas where the battalion may possibly deploy. The operations section will conduct coordination with higher and adjacent units in the development of the annual training plan. The logistics section will be preparing its new gear set for upcoming training requirements. The communication section will prepare its new gear set for subsequent training as well as provide support for battalion field exercises. The Battalion Aid Station will continue to provide first class medical support to the battalion.

The upcoming holidays are sure to provide another great opportunity for the men of Headquarters and Service Company to spend quality time with the people that have been so supportive throughout our deployment and training cycle. Thanks again for all of the sacrifices that you have made. I hope that I get the opportunity to meet as many of you as possible at the battalion upcoming Marine Corps Birthday Ball on 19 November 2009.

Semper Fidelis,

Captain Craig Douglas

Commanding Officer

Headquarters and Service Company



Family and friends,

Alpha Company is together once again after re-deploying back to Twentynine Palms. Your Marines and Sailors did an exceptional job while deployed the last seven months. The company conducted a successful remilitarization of Combat Outpost Viking and a complete turnover of the combined area of operations to our partnering Iraqi Security Forces. Additionally, the retrograde of gear and personnel was a success reaching the end state from battalion.



Once again I would like to thank each of you for the support you gave to the Marines of Animal Company while deployed in support of combat operations. Your letters, packages and daily support significantly enhanced morale. We could not have all made the accomplishments we did without your support. I understand how difficult it must be to not have your loved ones around for seven months and the company staff greatly appreciates the time and effort you have put in to ensure your Marines were taken care of.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following recently promoted Marines:

Corporal Jonathan Bruch (October 1st)

Lance Corporal Ae Lee (October 1st)

Corporal Derrick Bates (October 1st)

Corporal Ramon Ponce (November 1st)

Lance Corporal David Abernathy (November 1st)

Lance Corporal Christopher McAninch (November 1st)

Lance Corporal Austin Priest (November 1st)

Lance Corporal Taylor Kaufman (November 1st)

Lance Corporal William Plascencia (November 1st)



October has passed quickly. The new Marines in the unit have been receiving instruction from our returning veterans and all have been conducting training to sustain their mission essential skills. Our focus of effort has been on individual skills, MCMAP, physical fitness and annual training requirements like swim qualification, gas chamber and a common skills test to name a few.

A brief look into the future, we have some ISMT training in preparation for the rifle range, a combat fitness test, MCMAP and some class room training in November. On November 6th we will be conducting a 5 mile conditioning hike followed by the company change of command where we will farewell Captain Tyler Moore. In addition, platoons will be conducting individual and collective fire team level back yard training, day and night. Weapons Platoon will be conducting non live-fire crew serve weapons training (machine guns, mortars and rockets) to sustain their individual skills on their respective weapon system. The battalion will have its annual Marine Corps Ball in Las Vegas on November 19th. Thank you once again for all of your support this past year. I hope that I get the opportunity to meet as many of you as possible at the Marine Corps Ball.

Semper Fidelis,

1stLt Christopher Simpson

Commanding Officer

Alpha Company



LCpl Gregory (left) coaches PFC Wilt during training conducted at the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer in preparation for the upcoming rifle range in December.

LCpl Patience and LCpl Jahns (right) take aim with the M9 service pistol during training at the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer in preparation for the upcoming pistol range in December.





The men of Baker Company returned from deployment in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM 09.1 on 3 August 2009. On the deployment they witnessed the successful turnover of their area of operations to Iraqi control for the first time in six years. Since their arrival home, the Marines have enjoyed a well deserved leave block with family and friends and settled into their new accommodations at 29 Palms.

The month of October saw a lot of Baker Marines head off to schools: Infantry Unit Leaders Course, SNCO Advanced and Career Courses, Infantry Squad Leaders Course, Infantry Machine Gun Leaders Course, and Sergeants Course. The company conducted annual training at the gas chamber and 120 Marines honed their marksmanship skills on the rifle range.

In early November, the company conducted two days of combat marksmanship training and a four mile and ten mile hikes. The company will continue to focus on training the squad and fire team leaders as well as educating Marines on the current fight in Afghanistan. The month of November brings several holiday weekends: Veterans Day and Thanksgiving as well as the Marine Corps Birthday. 1/7 will celebrate our Birthday on 19 November at the Hilton in Las Vegas. Please take advantage of the family time and get and attempt to travel if time permits. Knott's Berry Farm and Disneyland are fun for the whole family and tickets can be purchased at a reduced cost from MCCS.

In December, the company will participate in testing new squad weapons here at 29 Palms. We will also validate tactical procedures at the squad and fire team levels and leaders will participate in a one week Train-the-Trainer Course.



The Christmas leave block is scheduled for 23 December to 4 January.

Congratulations are in order for the company's newest NCOs:

Corporal Allen Novotny,
Corporal Jesse Hannah,
Corporal Andrew Balliet,
Corporal Scott Laboch,
Corporal Adam Fink.

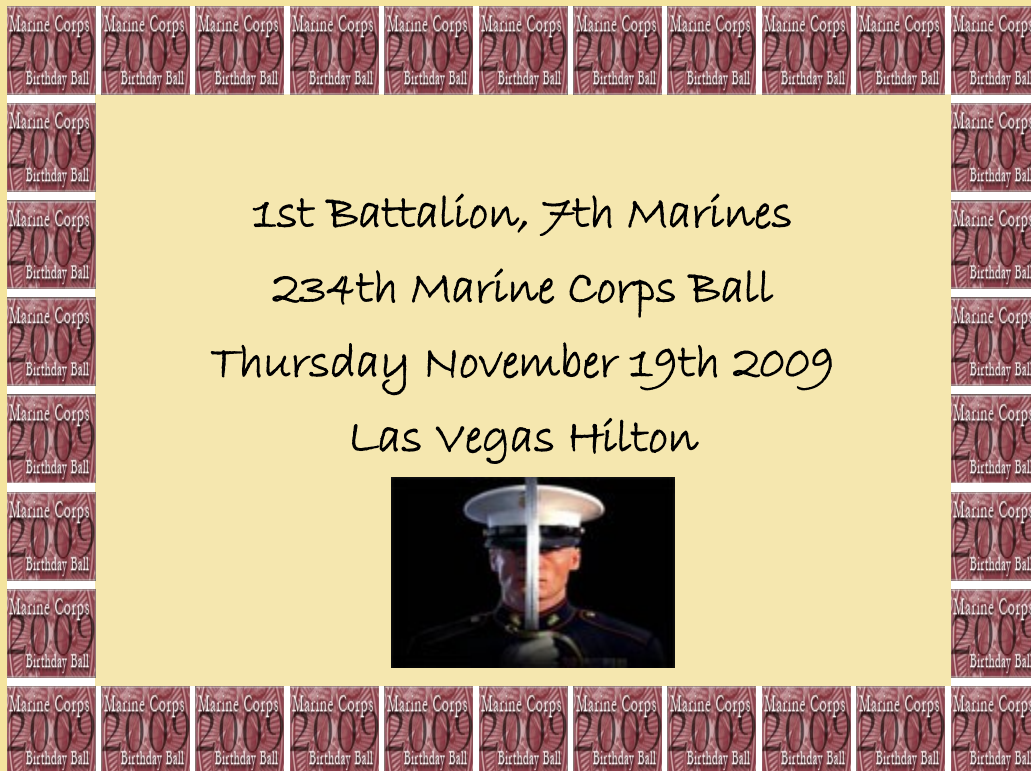
Congratulations



Finally, a hearty thanks are due to Capt Reid who has led the Marines of Baker with tireless devotion. Thank you to all of the family and friends of Baker Company for your continued support and encouragement. If you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the battalion's Family Readiness Officer, Ruby. I hope you all enjoy the upcoming holiday season and I look forward to meeting you in the upcoming year.

Semper Fidelis,

First Lieutenant Peter H. Brooks





Dear Friends and Family,

I would like to start by thanking the families for their tremendous support during the deployment to Iraq. Without their steadfast support, the Marines of Suicide Charley would not have been able to perform flawlessly in Karmah, Iraq. During the deployment, our company oversaw the transition of security from Coalition Forces to our Iraqi counterparts in the City of Karmah and its local rural communities. The Iraqis significantly increased their security posture and capabilities under the careful watch of your sons and husbands.

Finally, we would like to recognize our recently promoted leaders. Each promotion is a significant increase in responsibility. These promotions include:

Corporal Collin Butler (October 1st)

Corporal Manuel Cervantes (October 1st)

Corporal Arthur Rivera (October 1st)

Sergeant Jacob Reed (August 2nd; Combat Meritorious)

Staff Sergeant Adam Wiedler (August 2nd; Combat Meritorious)

Promotions



Since returning to the United States, Suicide Charley has made significant personnel changes. On September 24th, the former executive officer, 1stLt Kivelin, took command of the company from Capt McCully. Other personnel changes include:

1stLt Adams - Executive Officer
GySgt Stout – Company Gunnery Sergeant
2ndLt Weiss – 1st Platoon Commander
SSgt SSgt Antista – 1st Platoon Sergeant
2ndLt Shivers – 2nd Platoon Commander
SSgt Milbin – 2nd Platoon Sergeant
2ndLt Bokert – 3rd Platoon Commander
SSgt Boone – 3rd Platoon Sergeant
2ndLt Pohly – Weapons Platoon Commander
SSgt Saldivar – Weapons Platoon Sergeant

The company has begun training for the next deployment. This training has included individual skills, medical, and communications training, as well as assorted annual requirements such as the gas chamber. Upcoming training events include the rifle range and Marine Corps Martial Arts Program Training. I apologize ahead of time to the spouses for the early mornings and late nights ahead, and thank you for your patience. We look forward to seeing all of the families at the Marine Corps Ball in Las Vegas on November 19th.

Semper Fidelis,

1stLt John E. Kivelin
Commanding Officer
Charlie Company



Above - Suicide Charley Change of Command ceremony 24 September 2009



Above - Marines of Charley Company firing in the early morning
during its annual rifle range
qualification



WEAPONS COMPANY

Weapons Company redeployed from Iraq in two waves. The first wave of Marines arrived in early August with the remainder of the company redeploying to 29 Palms after a successful relief in place with elements of the US Army 82nd Airborne. Each Marine's hard work and dedication ensured mission accomplishment and was critical in establishing a safe and prosperous Iraq. Their actions were critical whether serving as the personal security detail for the Department of State's embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team, the monitoring of (20) Sons of Iraq payments, mentorship of the Iraqi Security Forces, and the careful execution of (40) Quick Reaction Force missions. Bottom line, your Marines did an outstanding job while deployed in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM 09.1



Hail and Farewell

Sadly we say goodbye to our former Company Commander, Captain Craig O. Davis. Captain Davis served with 1/7 for four years and three deployments. He has relocated to Tactical Training Exercise Control Group (TTECG). His leadership and guidance will be greatly missed across the Company and Battalion. We wish him and his family nothing but the best and look forward to seeing him wearing a bright orange Coyote flak jacket at our next Mojave Viper.

Weapons Company also welcomed several new Marine leaders to our ranks. 1stLt Nick Moreno joined us from Baker Company and has assumed command of the Anti-Armor Platoon. Staff Sergeant John Juarez joined us from recruiting duty in Connecticut and will lead a Saber Section. 1stLt Adam Rohloff, from Suicide Charley has taken command of the 81mm Mortar Platoon. Staff Sergeant John Wade came to us from School of Infantry (West) as an instructor at the Infantry Mortar Leader's Course and is the 81 mm Mortar Platoon Sergeant. 2ndLt Brett Howard recently completed Infantry Officers Course in Quantico, VA and assumed command of the Heavy Machinegun Platoon. LCpl Bryan Dennis joined us from Marine Barracks 8th & I. Gunnery Sergeant David Ramirez arrived from The Basic School and assumed the duties of Company Operations Chief. Welcome to all of these Marines and their families.

We would like to congratulate the following recently promoted Marines:

Corporal Steven McNulty

Corporal Brandon Hurrington

Corporal Griffin Turner

Staff Sergeant Garret Garcia

Staff Sergeant Robert Kerman

Gunnery Sergeant John Schmuck

For the remainder of the year Weapons Company will be completing various training events. In November we will focus on mastering the basic skills of our military occupational specialties. In December we will conduct the annual rifle and pistol qualification and Train the Trainer Course. We look forward to spending time with our families and friends celebrating while we celebrate the upcoming holidays.

All of the Marines in Weapons Company would like to extend our personal thanks and gratitude to all of our family members and friends for the superb support during the previous Iraq deployment. Without your love and support we could not have accomplished our mission. We ask for your continued support as we train hard in preparation for our next deployment, wherever and whenever the mission requires we go. Thank you for all that you do and the countless sacrifices you have made.

Semper Fidelis,

Captain Ben Reid



Left - 81mm Mortar Platoon at a TACP shoot.

Right - Weapons homecoming 2009



1/7 SPOUSES OUT AT THE CAX L.I.N.K.S



1/7 SPOUSE NIGHT OUT AT THE UGLY GOWN BALL



ALL OUR SPOUSE EVENTS ARE OPEN TO ALL SPOUSES, FIANCES, GIRLFRIENDS OF 1/7 MARINES AND SAILORS.
IF YOU ARE A PARENT OR FAMILY MEMBER THAT LIVES CLOSE TO THE BASE, YOU ARE MORE THAN WELCOME
TO ATTEND OUR EVENTS. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PARTICIPATE AND GET
INVOLVED, GET TO MEET NEW FRIENDS, AS WE ARE ALL PART OF THE FIRST TEAM FAMILY!

1/7 SPOUSES WALKING CLUB

Due to the Ball and Thanksgiving Holiday in November, we will begin walking again on the following dates

December 8th, 10th, 15th, 17th, and 22nd

9.30am till 10.30am - Felix Field Track



**FOR THE HISTORY OF
1ST BATTALION, 7TH MARINES
PLEASE CLICK ON THE 1/7 LOGO FOR OUR
BATTALION WEBSITE**

Upcoming Battalion Events and Holiday 72's and 96's

1/7 Birthday Ball 96hrs.....**4.30pm Nov 18th till 7.30am Nov 23rd 2009**

1/7 Birthday Ball November 19th Las Vegas Hilton

Thanksgiving 96 hrs.....**4.30pm Nov 25th till 7.30am Nov 30th 2009**

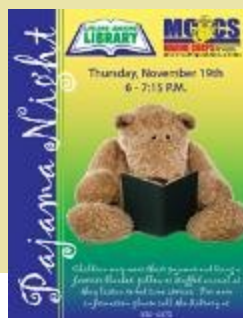
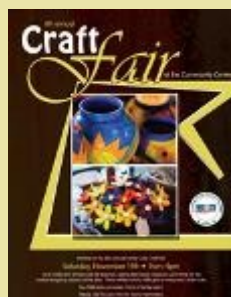
Christmas 96hrs.....**4.30pm Dec 23rd till 7.30am Dec 28th 2009**

New Year 96 hrs.....**4.30pm Dec 30th till 7.30am Jan 4th 2010**

Events around the Base.

For more information

[Click here](#)



EDUCATION & RESOURCES

WEBSITES

<http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/div/7mar/1bn/>

<http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/>

<http://www.mccs29palms.com/>

Important phone numbers.

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Family Readiness Officer | 760 830 3768 |
| 1/7 OOD | 760 830 5777 |
| EFMP | 760 830 7740 |
| Relocation Assistance | 760 830 4028 |
| Lincoln Housing | 760 368 4500 |
| Emergency Medicine Dept | 760 830 2345 |
| ASYMCA | 760 830 6685 |
| Public Affairs Office | 760 830 3760 |

L.I.N.K.S,

Call for more info
760 830 1696



CONTACT NUMBERS

FAMILY READINESS OFFICER (FRO)

RUBY ZUNINO

OFFICE PHONE 760 830 3768

CELL 760 219 9030

EMAIL ROBERTA.ZUNINO.UK@USMC.MIL

OR

Z29PALMS@YAHOO.COM

BATTALION OOD

760 830 5777

BATTALION HOTLINE

1 800 759 7602 OPT ION 1

